

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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May 4, 2005

EMS Transmission May 4, 2005
Instruction Memorandum No. NV 2005-055
Expires: 09/30/2006

To: Field Managers, Nevada

From: State Director, Nevada

Subject: Submission of 2006 Challenge Cost Share (CCS) Proposals
Submission of 2006 Cooperative Conservation Initiative (CCI) DD: 05/20/05

This Instruction Memorandum (IM) provides additional guidance for BLM NV relating to WO IM "Submission of Challenge Cost Share Program (CCS) and Cooperative Conservation Initiative (CCI) Proposals for 2006."

Last fall (2004), Washington Office (WO) requested that States combine CCI/CCS for FY 05 and FY 06 due to the zeroing out of the CCI program for FY 05. With this in mind, Field Offices (FO) were tasked with initiating, ranking, and submitting 2006 projects for CCI and CCS. Soon after, NSO combined the CCI and CCS projects into two combined lists (FY05 and FY 06) and submitted to the WO.

At this time, Nevada State Office (NSO) is soliciting proposals to be funded in FY 2006 for CCS (1770) projects and CCI (1771) projects. The proposed current funding for 2006 CCS (BPS Theme RP-2) is \$7.5 million plus add-ons totaling \$6.6 million. This CCS program funding is available for monitoring and/or inventorying natural and cultural resources; implementing habitat improvement projects; protecting and/or documenting natural and cultural resources; providing for enhanced recreational opportunities; and developing threatened and endangered species recovery plans. At this time, please review your original BPS 1770 submittals along with initiating new projects (CCS) for the additional money that is available.

The additional \$6.6 million is specifically marked for weed abatement (\$1.1 million), off road vehicle management (\$2.2 million) and sagebrush restoration (\$3.4 million). Please focus your additional proposals on weed abatement, OHV management and sagebrush restoration.

This IM also addresses CCI (BPS Theme RP-27). The current proposed funding for 2006 CCI is \$6,000,000. In 2006, the CCI program will focus on projects within two areas:

- 1). \$3.0 million for range improvement vegetation treatments such as seeding/planting of vegetation, weed treatments, and other vegetation manipulation projects that improve land health. Range improvement projects are often recommended during the development of activity-level plans, which are typically a product of land health assessments.
- 2). \$3.0 million to support the implementation of the BLM's National Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy by providing funding for sagebrush enhancement and restoration projects. Projects can include restoration of upland and riparian projects (protective fences, spring developments) or treatment of vegetation (planting of native species, prescribed burns, weed control).

Through the fiscal year 2005 appropriations process, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) received an additional \$500,000 in Bureau of Land Management (BLM) funds to support the conservation of sagebrush ecosystems on public and private lands. To ensure all of the designated funds are obligated before FY 2005 ends, the Foundation has decided to extend its deadline for full proposals under the Summer 2005 Slate. See attachment 9.

In the fall of 2004, the WO coordinators for CCI/CCS/NFWF visited the northern FOs of BLM NV. This visit was to promote BLM NV and present past and present projects that have been recently funded from the above mentioned programs. Jill Silvey and Anita Arends are still the program leads for CCI/CCS, and have knowledge of NV. I strongly encourage each FO to work with your staffs and submit sound proposals. Please coordinate your proposals with the NSO program leads. The more competitive BLM NV is, the better chance BLM NV has of securing some of the funding. Please ensure that your planning efforts (survey/design, NEPA, etc) are being initiated and completed along with the 1:1 match with your partners. Lastly, there is no guarantee that the FY 06 CCI/CCS projects will be approved/funded.

All field offices should ensure that information for FY 2006 CCS and CCI projects contained in the BPS are current, completed, and classified under the correct BPS theme. The 2006 CCI and CCS projects must be updated or entered, submitted, and prioritized by the FOs within BPS.

See Attachment 1 for BLM NV submission guidance for 2006 CCI/CCS projects, criteria/ranking and details. In order to meet the WO due date of May 27, 2005, CCI/CCS project proposals are due in the BPS by May 20, 2005. Field offices will be notified on the outcome of those project requests.

If you have any questions regarding this IM, please contact Pat Barker (Cultural Resources) at (775) 861-6482; Walt DeVours (Riparian, Wildlife, T&E) at (775) 861-6473; Barbara Keleher (Recreation) at (775) 861-6628; Leo Drumm (Travel Management) at (775)-861-6465; Ted Angle (Weeds) at (775) 861-6401; Patience York (Budget) at (775) 861-6528; or Denise Maddalena (Budget) at (775) 861-6432.

Signed By:
Meg Jensen
Acting State Director

Authenticated By:
Ellyn Darrah
Staff Assistant

10 Attachments

1. BLM NV Submission Guidance for 2006 CCS and CCI Projects (3 pp)
2. 2006 NV BLM FO Excel Spreadsheet (6 pp)
3. 2006 CCI Program Guidance (3 pp)
4. Appropriate PEs for CCI (1 pp)
5. 2006 CCS Program Guidance (3 pp)
6. Appropriate PEs for CCS (2 pp)
7. Comparison Table (2 pp)
8. NFWF Announcement (2 pp)
9. NFWF Guidance (3 pp)
10. 2006 CCI/CCS Combined Table (2 pp)